5

EASLEY

General Roy Cooper said his second term, like his first, would be dedicated to enhancing the abilities of law

enforcement to solve crimes. "I'm going to continue my work to improve DNA technology and forensics," he said.

Easley spent much of his first term fulfilling promises to improve K-12 education. His More at Four program was a success, though his push for a state lottery failed. Easley probably will renew his call for a lottery to fund education.

Easley rarely strayed from the topics of education and opportunity during his speech, but he did touch on the state's budget situation.

CELEBRATION

ing at First Baptist Church on North Roberson Street.

At 11 a.m., the group filled the church with many county and town dignitaries in attendance. Local NAACP members and clergy from many congregations also attended.

The Airport Road renaming was a key focus of the service.

In his service address, Chapel Hill Mayor Kevin Foy's statement of the Town Council's renaming decision

was met with a standing ovation.
"It's not just any old road, it's a road that stretches from the edge of our town all the way into the heart of our town," Foy said.

Keynote speaker William Barber centered his sermon on the symbol-ism of road-building as a metaphor for making changes.

"Chapel Hill may have just become a symbol for this nation," Barber said. "Challenge the current course. Begin building in new ways. Build a road."

Many involved in the march and service said the renaming issue brought a renewed energy to King's importance to the community.

The community is much more engaged today than they were a year ago," said Carrboro Mayor Mike Nelson.

Council member Sally Greene added that the tapestry of roads named in King's honor throughout the country serve as a national monument to him and the legacy of

CAMPAIGN

signatures.
"We're rolling and we're having an absolute blast," said Seth Dearmin, a candidate for student body president. After giving sheets to an indeterminate number of personal connections, Dearmin and his followers staked out "hightraffic" areas on campus to obtain signatures.
Seke Ballard, also running for

student body president, set up 10 signature-gatherers at the ticket distribution Saturday morning.

Each supporter was assigned to approach 200 students in the line, and Ballard said the campaign stop granted him 550 signatures, a substantial chunk of the 1,300 he had garnered as of Monday.

I'm absolutely excited. I have a lot of good and incredibly intelligent people working for me,"
Ballard said. "They kind of make me overconfident."

Organizational strategies differ from candidate to candidate. Ballard said he is happy with his tightly knit group of 40 to 50 stu-

Hayes Holderness, a candidate for CAA president, said he is pleased with the growth of his loosely organized team of 10 core

While every candidate desires the cushion of extra signatures to cover the risk of invalid names, stressing about the total is not a part of student body president can-

didate Leigha Blackwell's strategy.
"We're not in a big push," Blackwell said. She held a meeting Thursday night to distribute signa-

tures forms to about 50 people. "I think we're well on our way to the 800," Blackwell said, noting her presence at ticket distribution and

Greek houses this weekend. Tom Jensen, the fourth candidate for student body president, said he had gathered 1,000 signa-tures by Friday's end. Jensen deployed 30 aides at 7

a.m. Friday to work two- to three-hour shifts and has a following of about 40 students whose collective goal was to garner another 1,000 names by Sunday night.

As of 1 p.m. Monday, Jensen's supporters had halfway secured the second leg of their aim with 1,500 total signatures.

"My campaign staff has just put in so many hours," Jensen said. "I knew they would be good, but I didn't know they'd be this good."

Jensen, far exceeding the 800-signature requirement, decided Monday to call off further dormstorming events, saving his staff hit storming events, saying his staff hit every residence hall Sunday night. "I'd rather not bother people

more than it's necessary."

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"We must demand continued fiscal discipline that mandates effi-ciency," he said. "And the priority of every investment must promote

our greatest asset: our people."

The budget outlook is grim at best, and lawmakers likely will work with Easley after they convene Jan. 26 to examine revenue-building options that include taxes.

Easley might be open to new tactics, given the "think-outside-of-

the-box" mentality of his speech.

"For those who stubbornly cling to the past will fail and those who courageously reach for the future will succeed," he said.

Easley's address was followed by a 19-gun salute, and honored guest Andy Griffith read a poem titled "The Bridge Builder." The clos-ing prayer, led by Bishop George

his message. "King is a great inspirational leader, and we've come to understand that more in the past

ear," Greene said. Barber also spoke of building a road of change that goes past the White House and the United Nations to spread King's message of

nonviolence at home and abroad.
"We must speak truth to power," he said, reminding the crowd that King was not just a civil rights leader, but a speaker for workers' rights.

Michelle Laws, an NAACP mem-ber and speaker, said she thought the energy of the community had been reinvigorated by the recent attention on King.

'Our government will continue to do the things they're doing ... unless we are the force that counteracts," Laws said. "We need everyone to continue to work together across geographic and racial lines."

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Battle Jr., was punctuated by a nilitary fly-over

In commenting on the N.C. military personnel serving abroad, Easley once again emphasized edu-cation as central to validating their efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"As they endure great hardship in our name, it is our solemn responsibility to be worthy of their sacrifice," he said. "We have an obligation to prepare for them and their families educational opportunity that ensures our economic security here at home."

"(The fight for American values) is in every school, every university and every research facility in the

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BUDGET

Thursday's planning retreat was just the beginning in working toward a formal budget, which Horton typically proposes in May.

Foy and Horton agreed that the challenge now is to develop the most efficient budget model and to inform

citizens of the budget challenges "We want citizens to look at the budget and understand it," Foy said. Horton said this year's budget presents unique challenges that the

ouncil wants to face with caution.

The council will hold a public forum Jan. 26 to receive citizen com-

ments and set budget goals. Horton said he hopes to finalize an agreement with MAXIMUS this week. The firm would work with the citizen committee and eventually report to the council April 11.

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KING

you like Douglass or are you like Ellison? Do you use your knowledge to instruct or destruct?"

The \$50 runner-up prize went to Amy Perry who presented a short story about an African-American woman's struggle for identity and acceptance.

Other points mentioned included the number of black men in prisons and the state of education.

"It makes no sense that there are more (black) men in prison than in college," said sophomore Ebonie Leonard in her speech.

Organizers planned enough seating for 80 people, but it soon became

apparent that they needed more.

Michelle Greene, president of
the hosting sorority, estimated the attendance at about 140 people. "It is great to have so many (students), especially with the day off," she said. Many students said they were

impressed with the speakers.

Akeisha Sanders, a junior clinical and laboratory science major, said the oratory contest was infor-mative. "I'll definitely remember

the major points," she said. T.J. Abrams, a senior in the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity Inc., said the speeches were powerful and made valuable points

He noted that although the nation has made great strides as a whole in addressing race relations, there are still areas that require drastic improvement.
Abrams said that when he traveled to Mississippi, he thought he was going back in time.

"We continue to face new chal-lenges," he said. "We need new strategies to fight these issues.

The contest was one in a week-long series of events held to cele-



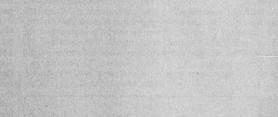
Danny Fu carries wood for a stair building project in Battle Park on Monday morning as part of a service day to honor of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

brate Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Rejuvenating Our Society Through Service also held its annual day for service Monday. Students split up and worked on several service projects in memory of King's service to his community.

Students participated in a variety of activities ranging from clean-ing up around campus to visiting

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